Frieren
Beyond Journey's End
Chapter 146: The Strongest Warrior
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Art by Tsukasa Abe
Translation: Mari "Japanese Autumn" Lettering: Amahara "Nyx" Cleaning: Sinnamon
Are you for real?
That's all snowmelt.
You'll die if you stay in there.
I swear here.
I know.
Hurry up and get outta there.
That's why I'm worried.
I didn't have a choice. It seems some people around here...
...know my face.
Honestly.
Clematis always forces us to do the dumbest things...
You really think so?
The statues and portraits honoring your achievements...
...were all destroyed a long time ago.
Nobody remembers you anymore.
They don't remember. Even though...
...you're the hero of this country.
Don't trouble yourself over it.
Why not warm yourself by the fire a bit?
Hey.
Nah. There's no need.
Let's go.
I keep coming back to this, but you're so tough as hell.
What in the world is your body made of?
It's most definitely not.
This is normal for a warrior.
This is normal... That's normal...
Yeah...
You say things are "normal" an awful lot.
Maybe you're right.
It's a habit I picked up from an old friend.
Till I met him...
...I never once doubted that I was the strongest warrior.
But he taught me that a warrior's pride...
...and fearlessness even in the face of death...
...can become deadly weaknesses.
It's because of him...
...that I've survived for so long.
I've looked death in the eye more times than I can count.
But each time...
...my once-timid friend's words kept me calm.
I don't buy it.
We've known each other a long time now.
So it's normal.
That's what I keep telling myself.
...and it seems to me like you're always on the lookout for somewhere to die.
A place to die an honorable death suitable for a warrior.
If it seems that way to you...
Like I said, though.
That's what I tell myself.
But I can't help but keep it in the back of my mind...
We haven't known each other that long.
It's been eight years.
It must be true.
But time is cruel.
We're both old men now.
...that if there was a warrior out there who could kill me...
...that friend of mine would be the one.
My friend. The strongest warrior.
That's what I thought, at least.
Have you ever met Lowe?
You mean the commander?
Clematis introduced me once.
He's seriously skilled.
Skilled?
That doesn't even begin to cover it.
I was afraid of him.
That warrior, who's sufficiently skilled to hold a much higher position than he does now...
...said something I'd rather not believe.
That he was prepared to be nothing but a simple pawn.
What kind of foes are we even up against, anyway?
What kind of foes are we up against?
I wonder how many people he's killed.
The first time I saw him...
I thought he was a demon general.
There's no way someone like him could fool the magic special forces...
...and walk straight through the front gate.
He's already starting to act like a monster.
Makes sense they'd take this passage instead.
It's an escape route from the age of the unified empire.
I learned about it from an old blueprint found in Mistress Serie's collection.
Securing this location was the right choice.
So, I wasn't allowed to pursue them further.
Last time, when I saw the others...
There weren't any wanted posters or any solid proof.
But I never imagined they'd send a monster like that.
I suspected the goal was reconnaissance...
Now I know that the only one not on the wanted posters...
Is the commander of the shadow warriors, a man called Lowe.
Still, this information was worth the risk.
The southern lands... him.
I recall the governor-general of the Lorbeer Domain in the far north of the empire...
...is also named Lowe.
I have a bad feeling about this.
Right now...
I need to meet back up with Frieren and the others so we can bring them down together.
I can't allow that thing to enter the palace.
I hear breathing.
I'm sure it's just wolf.
He loves skulking about in the shadows.
That's what I thought too.
But their heartbeat quickened just now.
It's an enemy.
I'm begging ya not to do anything stupid.
Move, and I'll kill you.
I told you not to move.
It'll be your head next time.
You're more reasonable than I expected.
What a relief.
You're allowing me to have a next time?
To be continued!

← Previous Chapter

Next Chapter →